



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

Northside church of Christ Welcomes You!

September 7, 2014

“We Must Turn To Be Saved”

Bryan Garlock

Paul told King Agrippa that he “...declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance” (Acts 26.20) Paul made it clear that salvation was for all men, both Jew and Gentile. Yet, their salvation was conditioned on their repentance and turning to the Lord. If they were to repent and turn to be saved, then we too must do the same. What then, does it mean to “turn to God”?

First, let us start with what it does not mean. It does not mean belief. One cannot repent of his sins without first believing he is in sin. We believe such when we have first heard through the Word of God that we all have sinned and fallen short the glory of God (Rom. 3.23). We also learn that “the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6.23).

How do we have eternal life in Christ Jesus? It is through faith (John 3.16). As you can see, if “turning to the Lord” was faith, we would be repenting then believing. The order is wrong! Further, after preaching the Lord Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles, “a great number who believed turned to the Lord” (Acts 11.20-21). The turning takes place after, and never before, faith.

As we’ve already observed, one must believe before he can repent and he must turn after he believes and repents. Therefore, turning is not repenting, either. Before we continue, it is important to understand that belief and repentance is always before, and never after, turning to God! Now, throughout the book of Acts, we see other instances where people turned to God (cf. Acts 11.21). *Continued on back...*

Northside
church Of Christ

25 Greenfield Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133

churchofchristatnorthside.com

Visit Us On Facebook!
Facebook.com/northsidehillsboro

Bryan Garlock
Office: 937.393.3634
Cell: 478.256.0325
preacher@churchofchristatnorthside.com

Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible study starting next week!
- Teen's Bible study starts today! / Kid's drill class today!
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

From The Pen Of Bill Pierce

"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it..." (1 Cor. 12:25-26a) This teaching was made clear this past week as I went through some things that I hope will never happen again! I want to thank everyone for the cards, calls, prayers, text messages, visits and especially my family, Dane Bryan who mowed & trimmed my yard and Steve & Linda Hamilton for taking us, not only to my doctor's appointment, but giving us a nice meal & letting me have my time with Starbucks! We are truly a together, unified family of God and don't let anyone tell you any different! God bless all of you!

Peter told the Jews to, "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3.19). Some translations render the words "turn back" with "converted." Peter taught the Jews that they could have their sins blotted out, or forgiven, if they would repent and turn back. Since conversion takes place after the hearer believes and repents, we are forced to conclude that the converting or turning point is baptism in water.

Peter declared, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2.38) When Peter said repent and turn back for forgiveness of sins in Acts chapter three, he wasn't teaching anything different than what he had previously preached in chapter two; repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is "turning to God"!

One might argue however, that turning to God is confession of our faith. It is true that Paul told the Romans, "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved" (Rom. 10.9-10). Though King Agrippa would have had to confess his faith in Christ before being saved because Paul taught such, he was not referring to confession when he said, "turn to God."

Remember how we mentioned it was important to note that belief and repentance came before "turning to God?" When Philip was preaching Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts chapter eight, the eunuch wanting to turn to God said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8.36). Philip replied, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (37). Notice verse 38, "[a]nd he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him."

Before the eunuch could be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of his sins, he first had to confess. Therefore, confession is not "turning to God." If you haven't done so yet, what prevents you from believing in Christ, repenting of your sins, confessing your faith in Him and turning to the Lord today? *BG*